

# Amber



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In 1882, the explorer Henry Morton Stanley looked down on what would become the city of Kinshasa:

“My mind, when I survey the view, always reverts to the possibilities of the future. It is like looking at the fair face of a promising child; we find nought in it but innocence, and we fondly imagine that we see the germs of a future great genius...”

The treaties Stanley negotiated and the trading posts he established for Leopold II enabled the Belgian king's subsequent cruel plunder of the private venture he named as The Congo Free State.

In this rich picturing of the complexities that shape daily lives in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi, Sammy Baloji and anthropologist Filip De Boeck are focusing on the 'urban now': a moment that is suspended between lingering precolonial references, the broken dreams of a colonial past, and the not yet realised promises of neoliberal futures. They document a world that arises out of all three layers, beyond planning and regulation, made necessary by the failure of earlier models.

The author who worked with the photographer Samy Baloji will give a talk on SATURDAY 14th APRIL at 1pm in the gallery.

This talk will be of particular interest to those studying social anthropology, human geography, history, writing or anyone interested in understanding more about the current situation within DRC.



🕒 Sat 14 April 2018

📍 Side Gallery

💎 Free

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